



## **MAKING VERMICOMPOST TEA**

Growing Solutions' Compost Tea System100 is the most recent addition to an exciting new vermicompost system in place at Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES). Created in partnership with VermiVision President Ralph Crevoshay, the composting system uses Sonoma Valley Worm Farm's (SVWF) Continuous Flow VermiComposter designed by SVWF President Jack Chambers. The VermiComposter CF's Flow--Thru technology produces a high--grade vermicompost excellent for making vermicompost tea.

Cal Poly faculty, staff, students and community gardeners recently expanded their vermicompost vision at a hands--on workshop with Growing Solutions President Michael Alms. Cal Poly's CAFES Center for Sustainability and VermiVision co-- sponsored the event at the San Luis Obispo campus. Organized by Center Director Hunter Francis, the event took participants through a start--to--finish training using the System100. During the first day, Michael presented the science and technology behind the System100, as participants filled compost baskets and readied the System100 for its 24--hour brewing cycle. The following day, the Fine Bubble Diffusion aerated vermicompost tea was harvested and applied. Application methods, dilution rates and cleaning techniques were discussed and demonstrated.

Center staff and students will continue to make vermicompost tea using the entire composting system, and apply the finished tea to campus orchards, vegetable gardens and sports fields.